

risks of ocean canoeing, Lady Blanche at once replied, "You would not have me spoil a character?" In actual fact she was on this occasion very anxious about what might happen, but would not stop her son from going, or let him guess her feeling. The party of young men did encounter considerable risk. They crossed from Skye to Rum in weather that was somewhat rough; one of them found that his canoe was leaking, and the other two had to tow it, while its occupant was baling out water most of the way. No harm, however, came of the adventure.

The manner in which Lady Blanche ordered her household was in harmony with those blended features of her character which have already been indicated—her strong sense of right, her unhesitating authority, and her sympathetic nature. She was careful that her servants should have full advantage of the Lord's Day. Coming from England she had no rigid views regarding it such as have been called "Scotch" or "Sabbatarian"; but in order that her household should as little as possible be hindered from going to church, she reduced the cooking on Sunday to such a scale that for a time nothing hot, not even a potato, could be had in the house on that day. She was obliged by-and-bye to relax this rule, but kept always to her general plan and aim. She liked to make Sunday different from other days with her children also, and, in addition to her private reading with each of them, she used to select a large number of books for them that might be interesting on that day.

Lady Blanche had an affectionate interest in the people around her on the estate and in the parish and neighbourhood. When I came to the parish I found it was the custom with the elders at the half-yearly Com-

munion to keep places for her and her family at the end of the Communion table, which extended nearly the whole length of the church. Like many others from England who have known our Scottish order in celebrating the Lord's Supper, she liked it much. "Whatever you do," she said, "don't give up the long table."

Her generosity was widely known. She did not spare trouble in sifting cases brought under her notice. Once in Edinburgh, in hastening along the street to catch an afternoon train for home, she saw a child weeping bitterly. She stopped, questioned it, and was told it was starving, that at home they were all starving, and the mother dying. She let the train go, went with the child to see if the story was true, found it entirely so, and that the mother, who was a widow, was weighed upon in dying with the thought of what would become of her children. Before she left, Lady Blanche undertook to care for them, and this she did till they were started in life.

Lady Blanche had in very remarkable union, the two opposite qualities of force and tenderness. She had a courage, a resolution, and an intellectual vigour which belonged to few men, but it was nevertheless in tenderness and womanliness that she was richest. Cultivated as she was, it was her wealth of nature that was most eminent, and this was joined to Christian devotion and self-control.

"One always wanted to do better after being with her." I may venture to tell how a year or two ago, when I happened to be talking of her with one of her daughters, she exclaimed, "I wonder we are only what we are with such a mother."

Lady Blanche died in London in 1872, her age being then forty-seven. When it fell to me to prepare a funeral sermon for the Sun-